

I have said it before and will say it again: This is fiscal child abuse. Passing on costs to future generations for today's wasteful government spending is an assault on the financial well-being of our children. Conservatives can no longer apologize for the Republicans' miserably financial mismanagement. They should be infuriated by it.

I believe that Bush has been a star when it comes to enacting pro-growth tax changes. The tax code has taken a pro-investment, pro-worker direction through cuts in the death tax, the capital gains tax, the dividend tax and the income tax rates.

Bravo. Bush is absolutely right that the first step to getting the deficit under control is to get back on high economic growth trajectory. And tax rate cuts will certainly help achieve that faster growth.

Don't believe a word of the Democratic whine from presidential wannabes like Dick Gephardt and Howard Dean that if only we hadn't cut taxes, the budget would be under control. That's a fantasy.

Without the tax cuts, the budget would still be in huge deficit and the budget would have probably grown even more recklessly.

IGNORED DEAL

A fascinating new study was just released by the House Republican Study Committee under the able leadership of Rep. Sue Myrick of North Carolina. The RSC shows that if Congress had simply lived under the spending limits set forth in the 1997 budget deal agreed to by Clinton and the Republicans in Congress, the budget would be balanced today—even with Bush's tax cuts.

Meanwhile, my own budget analysis shows that every Congress since 1994 has accelerated expenditures at a faster pace. Conclusion: It's the spending, stupid!

There's a spirited debate in Washington about how the budget deficit impacts our economy. Some say deficits cause inflation and higher interest rates. Maybe so, but there's little evidence of that effect.

Some say interest payments on debt crowd out other spending—which may be true, but if it is, that's a good thing, because it constrains the congressional spending appetite.

My belief is that budget deficits are primarily harmful because they make it too easy for politicians to spend money now and then pass the bill to taxpayers later. And many of those future taxpayers are too young to vote now, so we have an unrivaled case of taxation without representation.

NO FREE LUNCH

The ultimate blame for the enormous mushrooming of deficit spending ultimately rests with the White House. The buck simply doesn't stop at this president's desk. Bush wants more guns and more butter, and wants to pretend that no one will ever have to pay for the profligacy.

But Milton Friedman taught us years ago that "there ain't no such thing as a free lunch." Government spending comes out of somebody's hide—eventually.

What's reprehensible is that the Republicans now say in unison: Let the 2-year-olds pay for it. And someday they will. This is the coward's solution. A balanced budget requirement with an expenditure limitation is probably necessary because the biggest deficit in Washington these days is the deficit of courage.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES MARSHALL
STANLEY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary citizen of the Santa Barbara community, Mr. James Marshall Stanley. On August 1, 2003, Jim Stanley passed away in Santa Barbara, California. His years of service and dedication leave a great legacy among many individuals and organizations in this community and beyond.

James Marshall Stanley was born on April 2, 1907 in Oregon, graduated from high school in Portland, Oregon and went on to graduate from Portland Engineering School in 1927. Jim married in 1930 and moved with his wife's family to Santa Barbara in 1931.

During World War II, Mr. Stanley worked at a San Pedro shipbuilding yard and in 1943 joined the Merchant Marines as a Chief Radio Operator. He took part in numerous convoys during the War, supplying cargo, ammunitions and oil on board US Liberty and Victory ships. On August 15, 1945, James M. Stanley was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States and in 1949 was discharged from the US Merchant Marines. As a WWII hero, James M. Stanley was honored by the American, British, Russian and Finnish Governments for his participation in the fight against Nazism.

Following the War, James returned to his family in Santa Barbara where he owned and operated many small businesses before his retirement in 1972. Jim Stanley was a member of SCORE and worked as a Regional Director for Region IX of the U.S. Small Business Administration as well as worked as an advocate for the Los Angeles District of the Veterans Administration.

In addition to service to his country, service to his local community through volunteerism was an important part of Jim Stanley's life. Mr. Stanley was very active in the International Lions Club, which he joined in 1957. Not only was James Stanley the permanent President of the Tri-Counties Lions Sight and Hearing Center at St. Francis Medical Center for over 30 years, but also served as the International President of Lions Sight and Hearing Centers. Following his passion of providing sight to those less fortunate, Mr. Stanley helped found the non-profit S.E.E. International, which organizes surgical eye expeditions and provides free services to the people of developing countries suffering from curable eye diseases. For his service in these areas, James Stanley was awarded a "Golden Apple" award in 1991 and a "Golden Oak Leaf" award in 1998 by the Santa Barbara County School District.

In addition to his strong dedication to the Lions organization and S.E.E. International, Jim Stanley was a member of the US Navy League and the North Russia Club (which unites the veterans from the North Atlantic convoys from various countries). Mr. Stanley also supported such organizations as UNICEF, the International Red Cross, Paralyzed Veterans of America, SS Lane Victory Project, the Wilcox-Douglas Family Preservation Project and the SBCC Choir.

James Marshall Stanley was a person of great honor, serving his local community, his

country, and truly touching the whole world. Through the years that I have known Jim Stanley I not only consider him a community hero, but a friend. His service and dedication has been appreciated by many throughout the world over the years and we will honor his memory for many years into the future.

TRIBUTE TO COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTORS

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the members of the House the following remarks by our former colleague Lee Hamilton:

REMARKS HONORING COMMITTEE STAFF
DIRECTORS, JULY 17, 2003

It is my pleasure to say a few words in honor of the vital role that you play as committee majority and minority staff directors in the House.

Let me thank Ron Sarasin for that kind introduction, and Ron and Susie Dicks for their work in helping preserve and enhance our understanding of this magnificent Capitol. I often thought how fortunate I was to be able to work in this magnificent Capitol complex.

Let me also thank them and many of you here tonight for making this dinner possible with your support.

The contributions of staff directors to the work of the Congress are immeasurable. I am reasonably confident that every committee Chairman and Ranking Member would say they simply could not do their work without your leadership. I hope that gives each of you a full measure of satisfaction.

I want to talk for a few minutes about the role of the Congress in this country, the importance of politicians, and why your efforts are so important and worthwhile.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONGRESS

You are, of course, familiar with those who are cynical about your work and the work of Congress. The brightest wits in American life have had their fun at the expense of the Congress.

H.L. Mencken said that, "with the right pressure, Congressmen would cheerfully be in favor of polygamy, astrology or cannibalism."

Mark Twain said, "suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."

Will Rogers said that, "Congress was a never-ending source of amusement, amazement, and discouragement." Even so, we honor him with that magnificent statue just off the House floor.

We have all seen surveys like those showing that 66 percent of Americans can name the hosts of various game shows, while only 6 percent can name the Speaker of the House.

When I was a Member, I was never particularly disturbed by such survey results. After all, Americans are busy people with many demands on their time, and it is not easy to put in a full day's work and then read an article about Congress or turn on C-Span to watch the House or Senate in session.

Nor was I bothered by the barbs—after all, we have to appreciate that the bashing of Congress is one of America's all time favorite indoor sports.

What did bother me, though, was the extent to which people do not understand or appreciate some of the basic concepts that

underlie the workings of the Congress, and the role that Congress plays in the life of our representative democracy.

Even if Americans don't know the name of their senators or representative, they should know something about the importance of what they do to make the country work. Even if they don't know the players or the details of the legislative process, they should know something about how they relate to our system of government. If too many Americans get those concepts wrong, it does matter to the health of our democracy.

ROLE OF THE CONGRESS AND COMMITTEES

In my experience, far too few Americans really understand the most important function of the Congress. It is not, in my view, to pass any particular piece of legislation, or even a budget—but its historic mission is to maintain freedom.

The great phrases ring through our history—"We the people," "consent of the governed," "a more perfect union." These aren't just technical terms of political science. They are words that embody America's civic faith. You and I, above all others, are expected to know them in our bones, and to apply these grand concepts.

We rely on elected representatives to identify, sort out, and solve the difficult issues of state. It did not have to be this way. Our country would be vastly different if the Founders had placed power in the hands of a single ruler, or given much less voice to the American people.

In the Congress, Americans have a forum for debate and deliberation in which they can feel a stake. Traditional lawmaking is not just a nicety—it's a necessity if we're to remain a democracy. The lawmaking process allows us to resolve differences, and to live together peacefully, productively and successfully.

Most Americans may be familiar with the diagram of how a bill becomes a law. Whenever I see those charts I think to myself how sterile they are. They do not convey the dynamics—the frustration, the excitement, the complexity and the necessity of the process.

Very few Americans understand that the details of this process of deliberation guarantee that their voices are heard, and freedom is protected.

I worry that astute legislators often bypass steps in the lawmaking process, arguing—in effect—that the ends justify the means. This "unconventional lawmaking" is increasingly applied to important legislation. But in doing this we bypass and put at risk the very democratic process that defines our system.

My view is that important proposals should not bypass the traditional process, including the committee review, because that is one important place where deliberation takes place. That's where Members and staff can ask the hard questions. Committees provide expertise, and an opportunity to consider the merits and smooth out the problems in proposals. This is where we build consensus.

Some Americans feel that the legislative procedure is too slow and deliberative—they are annoyed by what they perceive as inside-the-Beltway scuffling, and wonder why Congress can't get things done faster.

But do we really want a speedy system in which laws are pushed through before alternatives are considered and consensus developed? We misunderstand Congress' role if we demand it be a model of efficiency and quick action.

Our Founders designed a system in which all new proposals get careful scrutiny by going through many layers of review. They were far less interested in moving good ideas efficiently, than they were in preventing bad ideas from becoming the law of the land in the heat of the moment.

People may sometimes complain about the process, but they benefit from its legislative speed bumps when they want their views heard, their interests protected, and their rights safeguarded.

As former Speaker Sam Rayburn used to say: "One of the wisest things ever said was, 'Wait a minute.'" That—in a phrase—is the essential role played by Congressional committees.

IMPORTANCE OF POLITICIANS

Democracy—after all—is a process, not a product. And what our democracy really needs is more politicians.

That was one line I used to say that was sure to get a reaction. Very few of my constituents agreed.

Showing skill as a politician has come to mean demonstrating the ability to raise campaign funds, engaging in the tit-for-tat of negative advertising, jockeying for public support based on polls and focus groups, or skewering an opponent with a one-liner during a televised debate.

People have come to view the word politician—particularly with regard to the Congress—with disdain. Plenty of voters feel that politicians sell-out their beliefs and promises. "Stick to your guns," they urge.

But controversy and conflict are unavoidable in a nation as large and diverse as ours—a diversity that is rightly represented in the peoples' House. To avoid ripping apart at the seams, our country needs people who know how to accommodate different points of view and work for common solutions—it needs politicians.

You are an essential part of this effort. By working behind the scenes, knowing what Members want, proposing compromises, addressing all the difficult details of legislation, and dealing with all the worthy groups wanting contradictory things, you—as well as your bosses—have to be politicians in order to keep our democracy running.

BEING A GOOD POLITICIAN

For the most part, people don't pay attention to how their hopes, dreams and ambitions are turned into public policy through the lawmaking process. Most citizens and journalists take that very political process for granted. They shouldn't.

Constituents often asked my position on a substantive issue. I don't think anyone inquired about my political skills—and, in this world, political skills are essential to get things done.

The key to being an effective legislator or staffer is respecting that system and figuring out how to make it work. So what political skills do you need? Does a Member need?

First, you know how to consult, particularly with your colleagues—talking to them, listening to them, making sure they feel they are in the loop. Support for ideas is largely built one-on-one, but also in larger forums. Key individuals—inside and outside of the Congress—have their own ideas and valid concerns, and they expect to be able to share them.

Lyndon Johnson had his own way of putting this with a sign he had in his Senate office: "You ain't learning nothing when you're talking."

Second, you calm—rather than inflame—discussions of controversial issues. Things can get pretty heated in the Congress, and disagreement is inevitable in a House as large and diverse as ours. It is relatively easy to make a bad situation worse. One thing that I'm certain of is that you cannot produce good legislation in a bad atmosphere—you can produce heat in such an environment, but not light.

Third, you know how to persuade. It takes an enormous amount of persuasion to build a majority in support of an idea. You all know

how much persuasion is involved in getting approval of even a modest piece of legislation. You have to line up support and be in touch with sometimes hundreds of individuals from both parties, in the Congress and outside the Congress.

Fourth, you must be willing to share credit. I remember former Speaker Tip O'Neill putting his arm around me and giving me some advice as we walked down the hall. "Neil," he said—he called me Neil for my first decade in Congress because I reminded him of a Boston baseball player named Neil Hamilton. "Neil, you can accomplish anything in this town if you're willing to let someone else take the credit."

Finally, you know how to compromise. Compromise is essential to producing law in our system. Good politicians—legislators and staff—are able to find points of agreement that will allow a consensus to emerge. They will look for solutions that allow both sides to claim—if not victory—at least some gains.

Your skills are crucial in finding acceptable solutions. Compromise might involve altering some key words; phrasing in a change; inserting a new provision; requiring a study; splitting differences in funding; delaying or postponing implementation of a section. You have to seek these accommodations among rival interests because you know that it is necessary to make the Congress—and country—work.

From my perspective, the ability to build consensus is probably the most important single skill needed in the Congress—by Members and staff. Any fool can blow a meeting or discussion apart—it takes real political skill to bring people together. That is why we need more politicians of your skill these days—not fewer.

WHY IS IT WORTHWHILE

Well, is this demanding, tedious process of passing legislation worthwhile? You and I know well the frustrations:

As a Member, I always felt it was hard to keep on the right side of the voter. When I was in my District, I heard complaints that I wasn't spending enough time in Washington; when I was in Washington, people said I was ignoring the home folks and only paid attention to them during elections.

When I drove an old car in my District, people said it looked like something a farmer would use for hauling trash; when I got a new car, they said the lobbyists had gotten to me.

When I wore an old suit, people said I had no class; when I wore a new one, I was accused of going high-hat.

When I missed church, people said I was an atheist; when I attended church, I was a pious fraud, trolling for votes in church.

When Congress passed a lot of laws, we were a meddling Congress; when we weren't passing laws, we were an incompetent, do-nothing Congress ignoring the needs of the country.

When we supported the president, people said we were a rubber-stamp; when we opposed the president, we were disloyal and obstructionist.

You can never please everyone when you are working in Congress, no matter how many hours you put in, no matter how skillful you are.

You all know too well what I'm talking about as staff directors when I talk about the frustrations, among them: committee meetings go on without end; the work is tedious, requiring that you go over legislation comma by comma; you are constantly running from one meeting or appointment to another; your daily schedule is always being interrupted, revised, or simply scrapped; if you have a family, you're going to miss many important family events; and you cannot

plan ahead, whether for an evening off or for a vacation, because some event or emergency always demands that Congress stay in session longer than planned.

All the political posturing, sniping and scrambles to claim credit for good things—or avoid blame for bad—sometimes becomes disheartening, as does the constant maneuvering for partisan advantage. And for putting up with all of this, you get paid less than you could make in the private sector, while facing harsh and frequent criticism.

Yet despite it all, most members run for reelection and remain in Congress as long as they can. Most of you worked long and hard to become a committee staff director.

Is it all worthwhile? Yes, of course it is.

Why? Let's be frank—some of it satisfies the ego. Some like the power and the trappings of power—when you speak, people listen, and that is very satisfying. But most of you, I think, are truly motivated by the belief that, as hard as it is, you can make a difference and enhance the lives of ordinary Americans.

Then, too, it is all pretty exciting—and interesting. The sheer challenge of public policy issues attracts us. There is a pervasive sense on Capitol Hill that it is where the issues of greatest importance to the nation are being sorted out. This is where the action is. Sometimes this is misplaced, but often it is not.

You struggle over the issues that aroused the passions of this country's founding generation. How much power should the federal government be given? How should powers be separated among the branches? How do we resolve the tension between encouraging individual liberty and security? What role should our country play in the world?

These great issues are subject to debate every time a new federal budget comes to a vote, or a major presidential initiative gets introduced on Capitol Hill. When you start working in Congress, you get a chance to take part in this ongoing debate—our great experiment with democracy.

Your public service gives you a stimulating, proud and lively career.

CONCLUSION

So I salute each of you for the vital role that you play within this institution, and in your service to your fellow Americans.

You are contributing to the success and direction of this country. I hope you feel that by working in the Congress you are given the unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people and the great affairs of this Nation.

I would wager that no matter where your career takes you from Capitol Hill, that you will look back on your public service as the most rewarding of your career.

The work is hard, the recognition rare, the monetary reward modest. But your reward is a deeply fulfilling life in public service and a key role in American democracy. What more could you want?

TEXTILE SHORT SUPPLY PROCEDURES

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD and the benefit of my colleagues, a letter from Mr. David M. Spooner, Textile Negotiator for the United States Trade Representative, to Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chairman of the Com-

mittee on Finance, clarifying the textile commercial availability provisions in the Singapore and Chile Free Trade Agreements.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 25, 2003.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY: I understand that the Committee has received inquiries regarding the textile commercial availability provisions in the Singapore and Chile Free Trade Agreements and am therefore writing to clarify the agreements' commercial availability sections.

The Singapore FTA would deem as not commercially available all products designated as such prior to November 2002 (prior to the completion of the SFTA negotiations) for the AGOA and CBTPA preference programs. The Chile FTA does not contain such a provision. In the future, for both the Singapore and Chile FTAs, to designate additional items as not commercially available, either the United States or our trading partners would have to utilize the consultation provisions of the agreement's "Revision of Rules of Origin" section. This section requires the Parties to consult, upon request, to consider whether particular goods should be subject to different rules of origin to address issues of availability of supply of fibers, yarns or fabrics in the free trade area and requires the Parties to endeavor to conclude their consultations within 60 days of the request.

I hope the above explanation is helpful. Please feel free to have Committee staff contact my office at 202-395-3026 if the Committee has any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. SPOONER,
Textile Negotiator.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF TRAYNOR HALFTOWN—BROADCAST PIONEER OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the legendary Chief Traynor Halftown, the children's entertainer who passed away on July 5, 2003. His passing was broadly covered in the media and accepted as a personal loss for millions in the Philadelphia region who felt they knew him as a friend.

Chief Halftown was a true original and an entertainer at heart. Chief Halftown delighted the children of Delaware Valley for 49 years with his stories, cartoons and live talent acts. He offered a different view of Native Americans than was seen in most TV westerns. The Chief Halftown Show was one of Philadelphia's most popular programs. It was the longest running children's TV show in history, from 1951 to 1999—48 years on WFIL-TV Channel 6—Philadelphia. He had a live audience with selected children visiting his set each week. Some little known facts about the "Chief" include the fact that he had a fabulous voice. Prior to his children's TV career, he was a successful nightclub singer and had a much in demand lounge act. He was also quite a sportsman, including the fact that he was an "Ace" bowler.

Beginning from the early 1950's, Chief Halftown was an outstanding presence at community activities, business openings, sports events and holiday parades in countless towns. His scheduled appearances filled the calendar and drew adoring crowds at personal appearances until just recently.

A veteran of World War II, he served his country honorably and after discharge from the Army moved into Springfield, PA with his wife, Margaret. Unable to have children, this remarkable couple opened their home to three children from reservation families who then attended Delaware County, PA schools. Two boys and one girl, all now enjoy success in business and have families of their own.

Because of early exposure to substance abuse on his Seneca reservation, upper New York State, and due to a short period of personal dependency, he became known as a "sponsor helper" for others having such problems. He aided thousands of Pennsylvanians through his example and guidance for nearly 60 years. His passing is a tragic loss to many professionals who dedicated their own lives to this specific health care field.

In his eighties, he continued to produce children's "amateur contests" and made visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. For those elder citizens he wrote and presented a series of programs on the culture of Native Americans. The visits became popular events for confined and ailing seniors.

Mr. Speaker, our region has lost not only a legend in the broadcast industry, but a dear friend. I wish Margaret Halftown, his widow, my heartfelt condolences and may she find comfort in knowing that the many children and adults the Chief impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity of spirit and the example of his life and work. Chief Traynor Halftown exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he accomplished and stood for.

HONORING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the past few decades have posed some difficult challenges for America's workers and some hard choices for those who seek to guarantee them a brighter future. I can think of no area that is simultaneously as broadly important and increasingly complex as pension and health benefit issues. As Congress struggles with the challenge of ensuring the health and pension benefit promises made to tens of millions of workers and retirees, I want to thank the Employee Benefits Research Institute for its considerable contribution to providing education and information to members of Congress and the Nation. As EBRI marks its 25th anniversary, I want to thank them for helping us understand the issues and say that we all look forward to their counsel in the future.

EBRI is one of the only organizations dedicated to gathering employee benefit information and presenting it to the public in a timely